

prize him; such I will have whom I am sure he knows not from the enemy: we will binde and hoodwinke him so, that he shall suppose no other but that he is carried into the Leager of the aduersaries, when we bring him to our owne tents: be but your Lordship present at his examination, if he do not for the promise of his life, and in the highest compulsion of base feare, offer to betray you, and deliuer all the intelligence in his power against you, and that with the diuine forfeite of his soule vpon oath, neuer trust my judgement in anie thing.

*Cap.G.* O for the loue of laughter, let him fetch his drumme, he sayes he has a stratagem for't: when your Lordship sees the bottome of this successe in't, and to what mettle this counterfeyt lump of ours will be melted if you giue him not Iohn drummes entertainment, your inclining cannot be removed. Heere he comes.

*Enter Parrolles.*

*Cap.E.* O for the loue of laughter hinder not the honor of his designe, let him fetch off his drumme in any hand.

*Ber.* How now Monsieur? This drumme ticks forely in your disposition.

*Cap.G.* A pox on't, let it go, tis but a drumme.

*Par.* But a drumme: Ift but a drumme? A drum so lost. There was excellent command, to charge in with our horse vpon our owne wings, and to renege our owne souldiers.

*Cap.G.* That was not to be blam'd in the command of the seruice: it was a disaster of warre that *Caesar* him selfe could not haue prevented, if he had bene there to command.

*Ber.* Well, wee cannot greatly condemne our successe: some dishonor wee had in the losse of that drum, but it is not to be recovered.

*Par.* It might haue bene recovered.

*Ber.* It might, but it is not now.

*Par.* It is to be recovered, but that the merit of seruice is sildome attributed to the true and exact performer, I would haue that drumme or another, or his iacet.

*Ber.* Why if you haue a stomacke, too't Monsieur: if you thinke your myserie in stratagem, can bring this instrument of honour againe into his native quarter, be magnanimous in the enterprize and go on, I wil grace the attempt for a worthy exploit: if you speede well in it, the Duke shall both speake of it, and extend to you what further becomes his greatnesse, euen to the utmost syllable of your worthinesse.

*Par.* By the hand of a souldier I will vndertake it.

*Ber.* But you must not now slumber in it.

*Par.* He about it this evening, and I will presently pen downe my dilemma's, encourage my selfe in my certaintie, put my selfe into my mortall preparation: and by midnight looke to heare further from me.

*Ber.* May I bee bold to acquaint his grace you are gone about it.

*Par.* I know not what the successe will be my Lord, but the attempt I vow.

*Ber.* I know th art valiant,

And to the possibility of thy souldieriship,

Will subscribe for thee: Farewell.

*Par.* I loue not many words.

*Cap.E.* No more then a fish loues water. Is not this

a strange fellow my Lord, that so confidently seemes to vndertake this businesse, which he knowes as not to be done, damnes himselfe to do, & dares better be damned then to doo't.

*Cap.G.* You do not know him my Lord as we doe, certaine it is that he will steale himselfe into a mans favour, and for a weeke escape a great deale of discoueries, but when you finde him out, you haue him euer after.

*Ber.* Why do you thinke he will make no deede at all of this that so seriously hee dooes adresse himselfe vnto?

*Cap.E.* None in the world, but returne with an inuention, and clap vpon you two or three probable lies: but we haue almost imboist him, you shall see his fall to night: for indeede he is not for your Lordshippes respect.

*Cap.G.* Weele make you some sport with the Foure ere we case him. He was first smoak'd by the old Lord *Lafeu*, when his disguise and he is parted, tell me what a sprat you shall finde him, which you shall see this evening.

*Cap.E.* I must go looke my twiggies.

He shall be caught.

*Ber.* Your brother he shall go along with me.

*Cap.G.* As't please your Lordship, He leaue you.

*Ber.* Now wil I lead you to the house, and shew you

The Lasse I spoke of.

*Cap.E.* But you say she's honest.

*Ber.* That's all the fault: I spoke with hir but once,

And found her wondrous cold, but I sent to her

By this same Coxcombe that we haue i'th winde

Tokens and Letters, which she did resend,

And this is all I haue done: She's a faire creature,

Will you go see her?

*Cap.E.* With all my heart my Lord.

*Enter Helles and Widowes.*

*Hel.* If you misdoubt me that I am not free,

I know not how I shall assure you further,

But I shall loose the grounds I worke vpon.

*Wid.* Though my estate be false, I was well borne,

Nothing acquainted with these businesse,

And would not put my reputation now

In any staining act.

*Hel.* Nor would I wish you.

First giue me trust, the Count he is my husband,

And what to your sworne counsaile I haue spoken,

Is so from word to word: and then you cannot

By the good ayde that I of you shall borrow,

Err in bestowing it.

*Wid.* I should beleene you,

For you haue shew'd me that which well approues

Yare great in fortune.

*Hel.* Take this purse of Gold,

And let me buy your friendly helpe thus farre,

Which I will ouer-pay, and pay againe

When I haue found it: The Count he woos your

daughter.

Layes downe his wanton sledge before her beautie,

Resolue to carrie her: let her in fine confent

As we'l direct her how tis best to beare it:

Now his important blood will naught denie,

That shee'l demand: a ring the Countie weares,

That downward hath succeeded in his house

From

from sonne to sonne, some foure or fife descents, Since the first father wore it. This Ring he holds In most rich choice: yet in his idle fire, To buy his will, it would not seeme too deere, How ere repented after.

*Wid.* Now I see the bottome of your purpose.

*Hel.* You see it lawfull then, it is no more,

But that your daughter ere she seemes as wonne,

Desires this Ring: appoints him an encounter;

In fine, deliuers me to fill the time,

Her selfe most chastly absent: after

To marry her, He adde three thousand Crownes

To what is past already.

*Wid.* I haue yeelded:

Instruct my daughter how she shall perseuer,

That time and place with this deccite so lawfull

May proue coherent. Euery night he comes

With Musickes of all sorts, and songs compos'd

To her vnworthinesse: It nothing steeds vs

To chide him from our eues, for he persists

As if his life lay on't.

*Hel.* Why then to night

Let vs assay our plot, which if it speed,

Is wicked meaning in a lawfull deede;

And lawfull meaning in a lawfull act,

Where both not sinne, and yet a sinfull fact.

But let's about it.

### *Actus Quartus.*

*Enter one of the Frenchmen, with fise or sixe other souldiers in ambush.*

*1. Lord E.* He can come no other way but by this hedge corner: when you fallie vpon him, speake what terrible Language you will: though you vnderstand it not your selues, no matter: for we must not seeme to vnderstand him, vlesse some one among vs, whom wee must produce for an Interpreter.

*1. Sol.* Good Capitaine, let me be th Interpreter.

*Lord E.* Art not acquainted with him? knowes he not thy voice?

*1. Sol.* No fir I warrant you.

*Lord E.* But what linie wol'st thou to speake to vs againe.

*1. Sol.* E'n such as you speake to me.

*Lord E.* He must thinke vs some band of strangers, i'th aduersaries entertainment. Now he hath a soiacke of all neighbouring Languages: therefore we must euery one be a man of his owne fancie, not to know what we speak one to another: so we seeme to know, is to know straight our purpose: Choughs language, gabble enogh, and good enough. As for you, interpreter, you must seeme very politicke. But couch ho, heere hee comes, to beguile two houres in a sleepe, and then to returne & swear the lies he forges.

*Enter Parrolles.*

*Par.* Ten a clocke: Within these three houres 'will be time enough to goe home. What shall I say I haue done? It must bee a very plausible inuention that carries it. They beginne to smoake mee, and disgraces haue of late, knock'd too often at my doore: I finde my tongue is too foole-hardie, but my heart hath the feare of Mars

before it, and of his my tongue.

*Lord E.* This is th

was guiltie of.

*Par.* What the

the recouerie of th

impossibility, and

must giue my selfe

ploit: yet slight on

came you off with

giue, wherefore w

you into a Butter-

ther of *Batazelis*

perilles.

*Lord E.* Is it possi

be that he is.

*Par.* I would th

the turne, or the bre

*Lord E.* We cannot

*Par.* Or the barin

stratagem.

*Lord E.* 'Twould

*Par.* Or to dro

*Lord E.* Hardly se

*Par.* Though I

Citadell.

*Lord E.* How dee

*Par.* Thirty fado

*Lord E.* Three gro

beleened.

*Par.* I would I

would sweare I rec

*Lord E.* You shall

*Par.* A drumme

*Lord E.* Throcamo

*All.* Cargo, cargo

*Par.* O ransom

Do not hide mine e

*Inter.* Boskos thr

*Par.* I know you

And I shall loose m

If there be heere G

Italian, or French, le

He discouer that, w

*Int.* Boskos vau

thy tongue: Kereby

seuenteene ponyard

*Par.* Oh,

*Inter.* Oh pray,

*Manka vohania dnto*

*Lord E.* Of corbidu

*Int.* The Gener

And hoodwink't a

To gather from the

Something to saue t

*Par.* O let me liu

And all the secrets o

Their force, their p

Which you will wo

*Inter.* But wilt t

*Par.* If I don't,

*Inter.* Acordo lin

Come on, thou are g